



MAURICE CAMPBELL

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Dr. J. M. H. Campbell, known by his friends and colleagues as Maurice Campbell, was consulting physician to Guy's Hospital and to the National Heart Hospital. Until shortly before he died on 7 August he maintained sound health and recently he travelled and lectured in the United States.

John Maurice Hardman Campbell was born on 3 December 1891, and was the son of J. E. Campbell, F.R.S. He was a scholar of Winchester, and continued to New College, Oxford, where he gained first class honours in physiology. He entered Guy's Hospital Medical School in 1914 and graduated in 1916. In the latter years of the 1914-18 war he took part in active operations in Mesopotamia and North Persia.

Maurice Campbell became an internationally known authority on congenital heart disease, and had a distinguished career in medicine for two decades before cardiac maladies began to come within the scope of remedial surgery. In the middle twenties his work on chlorosis, goitre, and paroxysmal atrial fibrillation attracted wide attention, but in the ensuing years his numerous publications were almost exclusively cardiological. It was from his clinics at Guy's and the National Heart Hospital that the patients were selected for Brock's earliest operations. In those early days of cardiac surgery, vistas of restored comfort and health were suddenly opened for many cardiac invalids. Many important papers on rarer forms of congenital heart disease came from his pen in the following years. These showed an increasing interest in hereditary and familial trends, and his observations mark him as a pioneer in this area of genetics.

The original Cardiac Club was formed in 1922, and Maurice Campbell became the fourteenth member, membership of which was rigorously restricted to the foremost personalities in cardiology. In 1937 it was decided to widen the membership and to change the name to the Cardiac Society of Great Britain and Ireland. Campbell succeeded Evan Bedford as secretary of the new enterprise. In January 1939 the first issue of the *British Heart Journal* was published with Campbell and Bedford as joint editors. Campbell had to shoulder most of the burdens of editorship in its

early years because of Bedford's absence on military service, but this did give him the advantage of having a free hand in moulding the journal along his lines. This arrangement satisfied him, for by then he had a developed interest in writing as the most potent instrument of communication. Striving always for clarity of explanation, he went out of his way to help promising writers to achieve it. He committed himself to create a reputation for the journal of good writing and aesthetic presentation in keeping with the purposes of the newly-formed Society.

In the early years of the Journal Campbell virtually produced it singlehanded. The writer who became associate editor in 1949 recalls that the weekly sessions on Sunday evenings at Campbell's home were revealing. Campbell was not one who had to immerse himself in solitude and silence to do his work. Generally, he would be found at a table completely concentrated in spite of the tide of family life ebbing and flowing through his hospitable home. He would discuss policies and papers always with the bias toward the author but never allowing slipshod thought, unjustified conclusions, or prolix exposition. He spared no pains to help a promising worker to explain himself clearly and succinctly. A newcomer to the Editorial Board would be taught how to place Figures in the correct position, compose instructions to the blockmaker, and mark out the print style and size for the compositor. Campbell could work through these technicalities quickly because of long practice, but for the less experienced person each paper brought hours of editorial work. Years later when these technical details came to be done by professional subeditors and the editors confined themselves to duties of selection and assessment of papers, Campbell accepted the change with barely-concealed regret. A part of the Journal's personality had been jettisoned, yet the old order, he conceded, had inevitably to change.

After relinquishing his post as Editor, Maurice Campbell turned his attention to writing, and during the past decade contributed to the *British Heart Journal* a remarkable series of papers on the natural history of congenital heart diseases. As well as his untiring work for the *British Heart Journal*, Maurice

Campbell took abundant interest in the British Heart Foundation and helped to put research in cardiology on a secure financial basis.

In so full a life, he yet found time to take a deep interest in ornithology, and was an enthusiastic

member of the Sherlock Holmes Society. Physician, thinker, worker, humanitarian, and naturalist, Campbell adorned the traditions of British medicine, and it is with deep regret that we record his passing.

K. Shirley Smith